

# FLIPPING BURGERS for your FUTU




What could be better than spending your summer vacation playing Xbox and sleeping in? Getting a job! As a teenager, I spent my summers working in the cornfields of Wisconsin, flipping burgers, waitressing, and working as a receptionist. I'll admit that my main motivation was to buy a car and cool clothes. Besides being a great way to make friends and earn money, my summer jobs taught me valuable job skills that are important today, and I had a lot of fun too.

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## Don't Forget to Look in the Mirror!

If you've never had a job, finding one may be intimidating. Plenty of opportunities are out there if you're willing to make the effort. Put the word out to your family and friends that you're looking for a summer job. Many people find jobs through such "networking." Don't be afraid to approach a company and ask if they have summer job opportunities. Seasonal establishments, such as restaurants, amusement parks, and swimming pools are often looking for workers to fill temporary positions. Remember to make a good impression by being well groomed, polite, and enthusiastic. Make sure that your application is neat and free from spelling or grammatical errors.

Are you wondering how much money you'll likely earn? Luckily, DWS has data to answer that question. Keep in mind that when you are starting out with little experience, you can expect to be at the lower end of the pay scale. See the chart for common summer jobs and their wages. You can also check out our website at <http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/occexpDefault.jsp> for more information. Good luck, and have fun developing your job skills while you earn some money. 

### Skills? What Skills?

Although you might not think that working fast food as a teenager could have much to do with success in your career later on, that summer job will develop important skills that all employers are looking for. Whether you are applying to sell sneakers, answer phones, or be a professional engineer, your employer will expect you to show up on time, follow directions, work well with others, and use good communication skills. These are important "soft skills." As I spent summer afternoons taking orders for root beer floats and mopping bathrooms, I also used basic math skills, learned to manage my time, and developed teamwork skills.

### But What Can I Do?

Do you already have a career in mind? Why not learn more about the occupation or industry now, get your foot in the door, and earn some cash for that new stereo you've been wanting? If you think you might like being an architect, maybe you could work construction to learn more about how buildings are put together. Interested in healthcare? A summer job as a home health aide could help you see if that field is a good fit for you. If you are the entrepreneurial type, you could even start your own business mowing lawns, washing windows, babysitting, or many other things. Use your imagination! Just be sure that you research your opportunities to get a realistic picture of what the business involves and how much you can expect to earn. And remember... If the pay sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

## Common Summer Jobs and their Wages



Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers	\$7.30
Child Care Workers	\$6.00
Fast Food Cooks	\$6.10
Retail Salespersons	\$7.00
General Office Workers	\$7.40